

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – MAY 11, 2016
CITY HALL, ROOM 2000

ATTENDANCE

Present

Councilman Will Bailey
Robin Blair
Ronnie Campbell
William Chesley
Julie Crawford
Rose Dawson
Kate Garvey

J. Glenn Hopkins
Gwendolyn Lewis
Melissa Little
Mike Mackey
Gerald Mann
Tammy Mann
Gwen Mullen

Brian Orrenmaa
Joyce Rawlings
Michele Smith-Howard
Michael Suppa
Kendallee Walker
Eric Williams

Excused Absent

Councilman John Chapman
Natnael Adere

Ramee Gentry

Sonia Price

Unexcused Absent

Giselle Brown

Carlos Suber

Staff

Jacqueline Coachman
Carol Farrell

Ron Frazier
Jonathan Leonberger

Shanna Samson
Deborah Warren

Guests

Bethany LeTreq

Darryl J. Poston

Joseph Williams

WELCOME

Chair Tammy Mann opened the meeting with introductions.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT APRIL MINUTES

There being no changes to the draft minutes of the April meeting of Children, Youth & Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC), Glenn Hopkins moved approval. The motion was seconded by Gwendolyn Lewis and passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION ON ACPS EQUITY AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE INITIATIVES

Cheryl Robinson, Cultural Competency Coordinator for Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) began the presentation with definitions that guide ACPS equity initiatives. Cultural competence is defined as the ability to teach students from cultures others than one's own. Cultural competencies are the skills needed to create equitable environments for students. Equity is achieved by providing what each child needs in order to reach a level of success based on an agreed upon standard. Data has been compiled from visits to over 400 classrooms as well as one-on-one conversations and focus groups. The conversation will be expanded to include the School Board and administrators. A process for institutionalizing equitable practices will be devised by

September. An Equity Advisory Committee has been established that will design, implement and evaluate equity work, and represent internal stakeholder groups.

Chair Mann asked how CYFCC can be supportive of the equity initiatives. Ms. Robinson recommended collaborating on shared definitions. Julie Crawford noted the overlap between the Children & Youth Master Plan (CYMP) and the ACPS Strategic Plan. Rose Dawson asked if any youth served on the advisory committee. Ms. Robinson acknowledged there are no youth on the committee, but input has been solicited from not only students but their parents. That input is being incorporated into the focus groups. Gwendolyn Lewis requested additional information on the results anticipated from the equity initiatives. Ms. Robinson stated indicators from a number of surveys will be assessed as well as grade distributions and dropout data. Darryl Poston, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center, recommended any equity initiatives acknowledge that trauma impacts the ability of youth to achieve. Trauma is a culture in and of itself. As noted by Ronnie Campbell, the real challenge is not content and asked about the timing of system-wide training, Ms. Robinson stated the train-the-trainer sessions are already underway and system-side training is forthcoming. Training for administrators and senior staff will be conducted next year. Michael Suppa applauded Ms. Robinson on the number of visits to ACPS classrooms.

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTION OF CHAIR-ELECT (2016-2017)

Rose Dawson, Chair of Membership and Outreach, reported recruitment has begun for the next Chair-Elect.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Dawson presented the first edition of *Collective Impact*, the CYFCC newsletter. Joyce Rawlings applauded the publication and recommended it feature the work of the anti-bullying initiative.

The report of the Advocacy Committee was provided by Glenn Hopkins, committee Chair. Recent accomplishments include updating the 2015-2016 Committee Work Plan; a letter acknowledging the support of the City Council for three additions to the proposed budget (Nannie J. Lee Center walk-in hours; restoring Sunday hours for libraries, and the child care fee subsidy); drafting a letter to the School Board in support of the proposed investment of resources for student services in alignment with the Children & Youth Master Plan; and drafting an amendment to the CYFCC FY17 Legislative Support Agenda to incorporate a recommendation from the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria in support of programs for middle school students as well as the expansion of programs that improve the graduation rate of African-American and Hispanic students. The next meeting of the committee is 4:30 p.m. on June 14 at ACPS Central Office. An update on legislation has been scheduled for a July meeting.

The draft *Profile of Youth Well-Being* was forwarded to the Research & Data Committee for review. Kendallee Walker, Chair of Research & Data, briefed commissioners on the deliberations of the committee at its meeting of May 11. The document will be released in tandem with the CYFCC Annual Report.

The next meeting of Implementation is tentatively planned for June 9. As reported by Co-Chair Gwen Mullen, on the agenda will be a report by on progress to date with regard to CYMP implementation.

In the report of the Ad Hoc Housing Committee, Chair-Elect Eric Williams (who also chairs the Ad Hoc Housing Committee) stated a meeting will be held later this month. He also shared the newly released one-pager prepared by the Office of Housing, a by-product of the presentation to CYFCC by the Office of Housing. It provides an overview of the housing services and programs offered by the City. Chair Mann recommended the document be forwarded to community-based organizations that work with families, faith-based organizations, and parents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Lewis announced Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria will host its end-of-the-year ceremony on May 26 at 6 p.m. The event will take place at Hammond Middle School.

Mr. Hopkins announced Alexandria will be partnering with Fairfax to pursue an opportunity being offered by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. Grant awardees will field test innovative strategies that support a public/private system of preschool delivery. Six grants of \$250,000 will be awarded.

Chair Mann noted the deadline for the Alexandria 40 Under 40 Awards by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce is May 20.

Joyce Rawlings is leading a workshop at Cora Kelly at 6 p.m. on May 16. The topic is how to be involved in the community.

Mr. Poston noted the capacity of the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention is seventy. There are, however, no gender-specific programs for females.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.